

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein the functional groups in at least one polymer are salts of acid groups in the form of alkyl ammonium or alkanol ammonium salts.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein at least one polymer has an acid functional equivalent weight of greater than 300 g/mole.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A method for flushing an uncured solvent-based paint from a spray-coating device, said method comprising contacting said uncured solvent-based paint with a composition containing less than about 5 weight percent water and comprising one or more organic solvents and at least one polymer, dissolved in said one or more organic solvents throughout said contacting and having functional groups selected from the group consisting of acid groups, amine groups and combinations and salts thereof for a time and at a temperature effective to disperse and remove said uncured solvent-based paint from said spray-coating deviceThe method of claim 4, wherein said composition comprises 30 to 50 weight % ketone, 35 to 55 weight % aromatic hydrocarbon, 1 to 10 weight % ester, 5 to 15 weight % alcohol, and 0.2 to 3 weight % of said polymer.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said contacting is accomplished by circulating said composition through said spray-coating device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said uncured solvent-based paint comprises one or more resins selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, polyether resins, polyacrylate resins, polyurethane resins, polyester resins, and melamine resins.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for flushing an uncured solvent-based paint from a spray-coating device, said method comprising contacting said uncured solvent-based paint with a composition containing less than about 5 weight percent water and comprising one or more organic solvents and at least one polymer, dissolved in said one or more organic solvents throughout said contacting and having functional groups selected from the group consisting of acid groups, amine groups and combinations and salts thereof for a time and at a temperature effective to disperse and remove said uncured solvent-based paint from said spray-coating device. ~~The method of claim 4~~ wherein said composition comprises 50 to 80 weight % ketone, 1 to 15 weight % aromatic hydrocarbon, 1 to 10 weight % ester, 1 to 20 weight % alcohol, 5 to 25 weight % aliphatic hydrocarbon, and 0.2 to 3 weight % of said polymer.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid groups, salts of carboxylic acid groups, and combinations thereof.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid groups, salts of phosphoric acid groups, and combinations thereof.

Serial No. 10/840,137

Art Unit: 1746

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of amine groups, salts of amine groups, and combinations thereof.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight of at least 500.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 6 wherein said polymer contains both at least one acid group or salt thereof and at least one amine group or salt thereof per molecule.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for flushing an uncured solvent-based paint from a paint delivery installation, said method comprising contacting said uncured solvent-based paint in or on said paint delivery installation with a composition containing less than about 5 weight percent water and comprising one or more organic solvents and about 0.1 to about 5 weight % of at least one polymer having functional groups selected from the group consisting of acid groups, amine groups and combinations and salts thereof, wherein said at least one polymer is soluble in the organic solvents and acts as a stabilizer or dispersant for pigment in the uncured solvent-based paint, the organic solvents comprising:
 - a) 30 to 50 weight % ketone, 35 to 55 weight % aromatic hydrocarbon, 1 to 10 weight % ester, and 5 to 15 weight % alcohol;
 - or
 - b) 50 to 80 weight % ketone, 1 to 15 weight % aromatic hydrocarbon, 1 to 10 weight % ester, 1 to 20 weight % alcohol, and 5 to 25 weight % aliphatic hydrocarbon;

Serial No. 10/840,137

Art Unit: 1746

for a time and at a temperature effective to disperse and remove said uncured solvent-based paint from said paint delivery installation.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said polymer contains both at least one acid group or salt thereof and at least one amine group or salt thereof per molecule.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one acid group or salt thereof comprises salts of acid groups in the form of alkyl ammonium or alkanol ammonium salts.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said paint delivery installation is a paint line, valve, regulator, color exchange device, pump, tank or sprayer.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein the functional groups in at least one polymer are salts of acid groups in the form of alkyl ammonium or alkanol ammonium salts.
21. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein at least one polymer has an acid functional equivalent weight of greater than 300 g/mole.
22. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said contacting is accomplished by circulating said composition through said spray-coating device.
23. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said uncured solvent-based paint

Serial No. 10/840,137

Art Unit: 1746

comprises one or more resins selected from the group consisting epoxy resins, polyether resins, polyacrylate resins, polyurethane resins, polyester resins, and melamine resins.

24. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid groups, salts of carboxylic acid groups, and combinations thereof.
25. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid groups, salts of phosphoric acid groups, and combinations thereof.
26. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said polymer contains at least three functional groups per molecule selected from the group consisting of amine groups, salts of amine groups, and combinations thereof.
27. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said polymer has a number average molecular weight of at least 500.
28. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said polymer contains both at least one acid group or salt thereof and at least one amine group or salt thereof per molecule.